

Baker books Wycombe a third round place

Wycombe Wanderers 2, Southall 1

PLAYING their first match since Tony Horseman announced his resignation, Wycombe Wanderers scraped through to the third round of the Mithras Cup, winning this two-stage tie 3-2 on aggregate.

Trailing 1-0 for 51 minutes Wanderers, in the second period, finally introduced some rhythm and method into their play as they swamped the Southall goal hunting for the equaliser.

On a glue-pot surface Southall impressed with their swift counter-attacks mainly channelled through centre-forward Peter Lavers. Goalkeeper John Maskell had to be on the alert for the slightest sign of danger as Wanderers defence was often caught undermanned.

It took Southall only four minutes to penetrate a shaky home rearguard. Nelhams broke down the right wing and his cross dropped between three defenders, for Juneman to spectacularly volley in.

Obviously shaken by this early setback, Wanderers pushed on to the offensive creating a number of promising openings. Vince Faulkner filled the inside-left position and worked with a tremendous amount of energy as Wycombe gained territorial advantage.

NOVICES

Two real clear-cut opportunities were carved out by Wanderers within minutes of each other but on both occasions first Worley, then Samuels blazed hopelessly over like novices.

The resolute and sharp-tackling Southall defenders were keeping the openings down to a minimum and if they were caught napping there was always keeper Walker willing to show his agility saving smartly at the foot of a post from Faulkner's head.

Southall were still dangerous

when counter-attacking and it was just as well that Julian Lailey was reading the nasty situations intelligently moving to snuff out the danger. On the right flank Lou Temel worked industriously overlapping to add fire power up front.

Ten minutes after the interval Wycombe finally reached equal status. Worley's low cross found Faulkner standing on the edge of the box, who turned the ball back into the path of the on-coming Barry Baker and Walker was left stranded by Baker's low 20-yard drive into the left hand corner.

Heartened by this goal Wanderers mounted a series of attacks on the Southall goal with King and Walker getting through some sterling defensive work in the 18-yard area.

Baker turned up trumps again in the 80th minute as the schemer-in-chief turned striker. Worley's cross was headed straight down in the area by King to Samuels, who tried to shoot in on the turn. The ball rebounded neatly straight into Baker's path and he made no mistake to give Wanderers a third round place.

Wycombe Wanderers: J. Maskell; L. Temel, C. Gale, J. Lailey, I. Rundle, D. Thomas; L. Worley, B. Baker, K. Samuels, V. Faulkner, L. Merrick. Sub.: V. Busby.